



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

José de Jesus Rivera

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2001

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I.N.S. INSPECTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG TRAFFICKING & BRIBERY CHARGES

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- A supervisory U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service Inspector with 16 years experience working at the San Luis, Port of Entry pleaded guilty in U. S. District Court today to two felony counts charging him with Bribery and Conspiracy to Import in excess of 100 Kilograms of Marijuana.

United States Attorney José de Jesus Rivera announced today that **GUSTAVO F. RAMIREZ**, 42, a Supervisory Inspector with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, entered pleas of guilty before U.S. District Judge James A. Teilborg to one count of Conspiracy to Import Marijuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 963, and one count of Accepting a Bribe in Relation to his Official Duties, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(b)(2).

RAMIREZ was indicted on January 9, 2001 in connection with the November 19, 2000 seizure of 582.9 pounds of marijuana discovered in two vehicles RAMIREZ allowed to enter the United States at the San Luis Port of Entry.

On November 28, 2000, federal officials served a search warrant at the residence of RAMIREZ. Agents found \$61,600 in a Brinks security box located in the trunk of RAMIREZ's 1996 Mazda Millennia.

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RAMIREZ later agreed to be interviewed and ultimately admitted that he passed marijuana through the Port of Entry.

Sentencing was set for June 25, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. RAMIREZ faces a possible maximum sentence of forty years in prison and a possible fine of two million dollars.

“The prosecution of cases involving corruption of federal officials is a high priority. These crimes strike at the very heart of the public’s confidence in its institutions of government and sully the reputation of the many honest and dedicated men and women who daily risk their lives securing our nation’s borders”, said United States Attorney Jose Rivera.

The RAMIREZ case was investigated by the Yuma offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Customs Service. Prosecution is being handled by the U. S. Attorney’s Office, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-01-035-PHX-JAT
RELEASE NUMBER: 2001-026